

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Traffic Signals		NUMBER: TE-266
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Traffic Signal Head Color		DATE: February 28, 1996
		SUPERSEDES:
DIRECTED TO: District Administrators	SIGNATURE: <i>J. L. Butner</i>	

In order to promote uniformity throughout the districts, it has been decided that traffic signal heads and beacons maintained by the Department shall be highway yellow in color except traffic signal heads at emergency traffic signal installations which shall be red in color. Highway yellow has been used as the color for traffic signal heads at the majority of intersections in Virginia and the *MUTCD* states it is the desirable color to obtain the best possible contrast with the visual background. On emergency traffic signals, the color red is another indication to the motorists that the signals at that particular installation are for emergency purposes.

The effective date for these requirements is immediately for new traffic signal installations. For existing installations, the existing color, if different than that required above, shall be changed to the correct color when all the signal heads are repainted or replaced for maintenance. Changing the color to match the above requirements when modifying a signal installation should be accomplished if it is feasible based upon the work being accomplished for the modification. The determination of the feasibility is the responsibility of the District Traffic Engineer.

DCF/df

cc: Mr. David R. Gehr
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Mr. Claude D. Garver, Jr.
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Division Administrators
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